



Visa Ramblings

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Free, Please Take One

Issue No. 10

Highlights of the Caribbean! Here's your guide to the annual Caribbean Day parade!



Brooklyn doesn't have white sandy beaches or turquoise waters, but on Labor Day weekend, it's one of the most desirable destinations in the West Indies.

More than three million people jam Eastern Parkway for a long weekend of festivities culminating in the 42nd annual parade — the biggest pageant in the city and the blowout of the summer.

With jerk chicken and other

tropical flavors piled high and an endless stream of calypso, soca and reggae music — we're talking about the real Indies bands here, and not some sloppy hipster acts from Williamsburg — it's a feast for the ears and a symphony for the stomach.

Hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans, Haitians, Guyanese, Barbadians, Trinidadians and more populate Brooklyn neighborhoods from Clinton Hill to Flatlands, from Downtown Brooklyn to Canarsie, but almost the full variety of food and drink can be experienced along Nostrand Avenue in Crown Heights.

In homage to the borough's lasting connection to the Lesser and Greater Antilles, The Brooklyn Paper presents its official, unauthorized guide to the West Indian Labor Day parade and Caribbean life — yea, mon!

• Jamaica: More Brooklynites trace their roots to Jamaica than any of the other West Indian countries. According to the 2000 census, almost 80,000 people in Kings County claimed Jamaican heritage.

The culinary highlights — featured at the Feeding Tree on Nostrand Avenue or the Islands on Washington Avenue

— include jerk chicken, a salty, sweet, spicy flavor explosion the likes of which the taste buds are unlikely to find anywhere on Jah's green earth; and ackee, the national dish consisting of a mashed local fruit and salted codfish.

Don't neglect the beverages, including Irish moss, a sweetened sea-weed elixir (and purported aphrodisiac), or the equally excellent, yet less-arousing, carrot juice.

• Barbados: Bajan cuisine is an ode to the flying fish, which is fried or steamed before landing on restaurant plate. Cou cou, a cornmeal dish with okra slathered in hot sauce, is required eating. Cock's Restaurant, which serves up both, is one of the few Bajan restaurants in Brooklyn.

• Trinidad and Tobago: The birthplace of Calypso is also the mother of some of the spiciest foods out of the Caribbean. Gloria's, with several locations around Brooklyn, including the flagship on Nostrand, and Justin's, (which also serves Guyanese items) on Lawrence Street, dish up the satisfying staples of curried chicken and goat, available in a roti, a wrap, or heaped on a plate.

The islands also created the

"double," an open-faced vegetarian dumpling of chickpeas and fruit chutney. They're so good, they should be called "the quadruple."

• Haiti: Haitian immigrants and their families are the second-largest West Indian group in Brooklyn and their French heritage distinguishes them from many of the other expats, who came mainly from what were once British colonies.

Kombit, on Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, is a more upscale restaurant and serves piklin, a blazing hot condiment, with many fried dishes. Eaters beware. Also highly recommended is lambi, a conch stew with carrots and tomatoes.

• Guyana: The country on the northern coast of South America has a huge Indian influence on its food and Sybil's, on Church Avenue, puts it all on display. The restaurant serves its take on curried goat and jerk chicken, but some of the options like dal, lentils, and chana, chickpeas, will have patrons think they're eating in Jackson Heights, Queens.

Source : http://www.nypost.com/p/news/regional/brooklyn/highlights_of_the_caribbean_pBXuKvJEDIXUbAYKGpunnK

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USA Fiance Visa: What Happens If I File for More than One?



Going through the K1 visa process can be difficult. Some Americans have had to go through the process on more than one occasion. Many of those who have applied for a K1 in the past fret that it will adversely affect their chances of obtaining a K1 visa in the future

One piece of legislation that is particularly important is the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act. This Act states that an American Citizen will only be entitled to apply for a total of two K-1 visas on behalf

of a foreign fiancée. This restriction does not mean that the United States Citizen will never be able to file a third petition, only that he or she will need to obtain a waiver from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.

There was a time when an American Citizen effectively had the right to file for as many K1 visas as he liked, but due to the passage of the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act this privilege has been greatly constricted.

A related question that comes up once this information has been imparted relates to different types of visa petitions. Can I submit an application for a K1 visa on behalf of my fiancée if I have filed for more than one marriage visa in the past? The non-technical reply to this inquiry is: yes. It could be possible

to apply for a K1 fiance visa regardless of the fact that the American petitioner has submitted many marriage visa applications in the past. The reason for this is the fact that the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act only deals with K1 fiancée visas. The act does not restrict multiple filings of marriage visa petitions like applications for the CR-1, IR-1, or K-3 visa categories.

This being said, one should keep in mind that although there is no clearly defined restriction on filing for multiple marriage visas, the American's name and personal details might be placed in the multiple filer database. The database keeps records of those who have filed for more than one application for US immigration benefits. Even though there is no legal prohibition on petitioning for multiple marriage visas,

it stands to reason that an American Citizen who has filed for a number of visas will most likely have his or her application placed under increased scrutiny because there could be questions as to the legitimacy of the marriage particularly where the US citizen has a long history of obtaining benefits for foreign spouses. It is probably unlikely that merely having one previous petition on file will greatly decrease the chance of visa approval, but this type of scenario might result in the officer taking a close look at the bona fides of the couple's relationship in order to be certain that the relationship is not a sham.

Article Source: <http://www.articlemaniac.com/article/238338/usa-fiance-visa-what-happens-if-file-for-more-than-one.html>

Domestic Violence and Immigrants

Many immigrants who travel to and settle in the United States are subjected to poor living conditions and possibly even abusive relationships. As an immigrant, you may feel disoriented in a new country and may think that you have no power to speak up against domestic violence. Many immigrants who experience abuse, particularly those here illegally, keep quiet because they are afraid of the possibility of deportation or retaliation from their abusers. However, in the United States immigrants have certain rights regardless of their immigration status, which may help you escape a cycle of violence at home.

Overcoming Your Fears

If you or your children are being abused at home, you are likely suffering from both physical and emotional distress. Your abusive spouse may try to intimidate you to prevent you from trying to leave. He may call you demeaning names, try to take away your and your children's papers, threaten to report you or have you deported, or otherwise make threats to scare you into staying silent. Even if you are in the country illegally, there are services available to you to help you and your children stay safe.

Rights and Options for Immigrant Domestic Violence Victims

If you are a victim of spousal abuse, consider seeking help through the following services and options:

Women's shelters - Women may seek care and assistance at a battered women's shelter and do not have to reveal their immigration status.

Restraining orders - Anyone may file a restraining order against an abusive spouse, regardless of whether you are a citizen or legal resident.

Police assistance - If you or your children have been victims of a crime, you can report the crime to the police and do

not have to reveal your residency status.

Emergency medical care - If you or your children have suffered injuries from abuse, you may seek medical attention at an emergency treatment facility even if you are not in the country legally.

If you are considering separating from an abusive spouse, consider contacting an experienced domestic violence lawyer. He or she can review the details of your situation and help you decide on a course of action to keep you and your family safe.

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Joseph_Devine

How do I avoid a Visa Denial?



"Liza was excited. In three days her friend Timothy would come visit her in the U.S. Suddenly, the phone rang. Liza couldn't believe her ears! Sadly, Timothy told her, "I can't come...the consul said I am 214(b)."

On any given day throughout the world many visa applicants find themselves in Timothy's situation. They hear the consular officer say, "Your visa application is refused. You are not qualified under Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act." To be refused a visa when you are not expecting it causes great disappointment and sometimes embarrassment. What does a 214(b) visa refusal mean? And what can applicants and friends do to prepare for a visa reapplication?

What is Section 214(b)?

Section 214 is part of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and controls the admission of nonimmigrants to the U.S. Subsection (b) states:

Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of application for a visa, and the immigration offi-

cers, at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to a nonimmigrant status...

To qualify for a visitor or student visa, applicants must meet the requirements of sections 101(a)(15)(B) or (F) of the INA respectively. Both sections, as do most nonimmigrant visas, require that the applicant proves that they have 'nonimmigrant intent,' i.e., that they will leave the U.S. at the end of their authorized stay. Failure to prove their nonimmigrant intent will result in a refusal of a visa under Section 214(b). The most frequent basis for such a refusal concerns the requirement that the prospective visitor or student possess a residence abroad he/she has no intention of abandoning. Applicants prove the existence of such 'residence' by demonstrating that they have ties abroad that would compel them to leave the U.S. at the end of the temporary stay. The law places this burden of proof on the applicant.

Consular officers have a difficult job. They must decide in a very short time if someone is qualified to receive a temporary visa. Most cases are decided after a brief interview and quick review of whatever evidence of ties the applicant presents.

What constitutes 'Strong Ties'?

'Ties' are the various aspects of your life that bind you to your country of residence: your possessions, employment, social and family relationships. Strong ties differ from country

to country, city to city, individual to individual. Some examples of ties can be a job, a house, a family, a bank account.

Each person's situation is different and consular officers are aware of this diversity. During the visa interview they look at each application individually and consider professional, social, cultural and other factors. In cases of younger applicants who may not have had an opportunity to form many ties, consular officers may look at the applicant's specific intentions, family situations, and long-range plans and prospects within his or her country of residence. Each case is examined individually and is accorded every consideration under the law.

Is a denial under Section 214(b) Permanent?

No, the consular officer will reconsider a case if an applicant can show further convincing evidence of ties to a residence outside the U.S. The applicant should contact the embassy or consulate to find out about reapplication procedures. Unfortunately, some applicants will not qualify for a nonimmigrant visa, regardless of how many times they reapply, until their personal, professional, and financial circumstances change considerably.

What can be done if a visa is denied under Section 214(b) for lack of residence abroad?

First, applicants should carefully review their situation and realistically evaluate their ties; what will make them want to come back. Then they can write down on paper what

qualifying ties they think they have which may not have been evaluated at the time of their interview with the consular officer. Also, if they have been refused, they should review what documents were submitted for the consul to consider. Applicants refused a visa under Section 214(b) may reapply for a visa. However, when they do, they will have to show further evidence of their ties or how their circumstances have changed since the time of the original application. It may help to answer the following questions before reapplying:

- Did I explain my situation accurately?
- Did the consular officer overlook something?
- Is there any additional information I can present to establish my residence and strong ties abroad?

Applicants should also bear in mind that they will be charged a nonrefundable application fee each time they apply for a visa, regardless of whether a visa is issued.

Source: <http://www.visapro.com/Immigration-Articles/?a=204&z=31>

"Ties' are the various aspects of your life that bind you to your country of residence: your possessions, employment, social and family relationships."

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Derek Luke
Actor

Famous Person of Guyanese Heritage

Derek Luke

Derek Luke (born April 24, 1974) is an American actor. He won the Independent Spirit Award for his big-screen debut performance in the 2002 film *Antwone Fisher*, directed and produced by Denzel Washington.

Luke was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, the son of pianist Marjorie Dixon and Guyanese native Maurice Luke, a former actor. He has two brothers, Daniel and Maurice. He is a graduate of Snyder High School in Jersey City.

Luke married singer-actress Sophia Adella Hernandez in 1998.

Luke was discovered while working at the Studio Emporium gift shop on the Sony studio lot and given the Fisher role, a story which is still repeated on the Sony studio tour.

Luke played one of the four male leads in Spike Lee's 2008 war film *Miracle at St. Anna*, replacing Wesley Snipes, who had to leave the film due to his highly-publicized tax problems.

He plays Alicia Keys' love interest in her video "Teenage Love Affair".

Luke played Sean Combs in the 2009 film *Notorious*.^[1]

Derek Luke also played singer Monica's love interest in the her music video for So Gone.

Luke played one of the group member of Mayhem on the Moesha Show on Mayhem at the Jam Esp (March 19, 2001)

He is currently casted in NBC's new EMT drama called "Trauma" which airs on Monday nights.

Filmography

Antwone Fisher (2002)
Biker Boyz (2003)
Pieces of April (2003)
Friday Night Lights (2004)
Spartan (2004)
Glory Road (2006)
Catch a Fire (2006)
Lions for Lambs (2007)
Definitely, Maybe (2008)
Miracle at St. Anna (2008)
Notorious (2009)
Madea Goes to Jail (2009)

Source : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek_Luke